(c) whether Government have agreed to provide help and assistance for rehabilitating these children and has given direction to State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, as the State Governments are the "appropriate" Governments for implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 in their respective areas, they have been advised for taking all appropriate measures for effective implementation of this notification. In this connection, the then Union Labour Minister had written to all the Chief Ministers and the Union Labour Secretary had also taken up this issue with the Chief Secretaries of all State Governments/UTs. Government of India has also held consultations with the State Governments, NGOs, and other stake holders, at Zonal level all over the country during the months of September and October 2006, before the ban became effective. During these Zonal Conferences, the State Govenments discussed their respective action plans for affecting the ban and for the rehabilitation of these children.

Government is already implementing the National Child Labour Scheme in 250 districts of 20 States in the country for the rehabilitation of working children. Under the Scheme, children withdrawn from work are provided education, nutrition, vocational training, stipend and health care etc.

Education and rehabilitation of child labour

1601. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governments of Bihar and Maharashtra have submitted proposals for Education and Rehabilitation of child labour during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of child labour to be covered and the amount of funds required for this and the amount sanctioned by Government, during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last three years, the State Government of Maharashtra has submitted 15 proposals for implementation of National Child Labour Scheme at Akola, Ahmednagar, Amravati, Aurangabad, Beed, Chandrapur, Dhule, Hingoli, Jalgaon, Jalna, Nanded, Nasik, Osmanabad, Parbani and Yavatmal. Similarly, the State Government of Bihar has also submitted proposal for inclusion of Munger district under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme.

(c) The number of children to be covered and budget requirement in the districts is subject to the number of child labour identified working in hazardous occupations/processes during the survey conducted by the districts under the NCLP scheme.

The districts under the NCLP scheme are identified by the Government on the basis of endemicity of child labour. Some of these proposals received from the State Government have already been covered under the NCLP Scheme.

Release of grants to these two states during the last three years are as follow:

Name of State	Grants released (in crore)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Maharashtra	1.16	3.40	4.48
Bihar	1.92	2.82	4.33

Decreasing importance of employment exchanges

1602. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that importance of Employement Exchanges has come down;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and